19th September 1947]

Record Office and are also bound at the Government Press, Madras. The contents of the manuscripts are preserved by recopying them on durable paper.

" (e) No.

" (f) No.

" (g) No."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether a peripatetic party is employed on manuscript collection? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " Not now, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I request the Government to consider the desirability of reviving the peripatetic party for the purpose of collection of manuscripts? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " I will go into the matter."

Publications printed in Government Press and by independent printers.

* 36 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state to what extent Government publications, including printed propaganda, issued in various forms are printed in the Government Press and by independent printers respectively; and in the latter case, whether orders are decided by competitive estimates or prepared on a cost plus basis from selected printers?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " All Government publications including printed propaganda issued in various forms are invariably printed in the Government Press with the following exceptions :—

Propaganda posters of big size in Indian languages relating to the Public Health and Agriculture departments. They are entrusted to private presses as Poster types for them are not available in the Government Press. The entrustment of this work to private presses is only by the invitation of competitive tenders. The Board of Revenue has also been permitted to entrust the printing of food propaganda notices to private presses."

Contracts given by Forest Department.

* 37 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : With reference to question No. 102 answered on the 11th March 1947, will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) if the Conservator of Forests in his discretion was competent to enter into contracts irrespective of the monetary limit, what was the need for Government to intervene and grant the lease;

[19th September 1947

(b) what the rates fixed are for the timber extracted under the prescriptions of the working plan;

(c) what the grounds are on which the revision of rates can take place from time to time;

(d) what the probable revenue will be to Government under the lease;

(e) who constitute Messrs. Hope Timber Syndicate and what the capital and other particulars of the Syndicate are;

(f) the nature and extent of the working of the Nilambur valley forests of the Syndicate during the war;

(g) whether one of the conditions imposed on the Syndicate is to take measures for 'regeneration' to prevent denudation;

(h) whether the Government have sanctioned the construction of roads, etc., to secure easy transport of timber and whether the cost of these works is borne by the Syndicate; and

(i) what the income to Government has been since the lease was granted, up to 31st March 1947?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"(a) Under Article 51 (b) of the Madras Financial Code, all contracts in regard to which the Government have not issued any definite rules or orders as to conditions, forms, etc., and all contracts containing unusual conditions or involving any uncertain and indefinite liability can only be made after obtaining the special sanction of the Government. Neither the Conservator nor the Chief Conservator of Forests was therefore competent to enter into a contract in this case. Hence, the sanction of the Government was applied for and accorded in regard to the lease.

"(b) No rates are fixed in the working plan.

"(c) The rates are subject to revision at the end of every two years and such revision will depend on the market rates prevailing at the time.

"(d) It is difficult to estimate the probable revenue even approximately, as different rates have been fixed for different species and these rates are subject to revision from time to time and as the revenue will also depend upon the quantity of timber actually converted and extracted by the lessee. The total revenue can be very roughly estimated at about Rs. 9½ lakhs.

"(e) The Hope Timber Syndicate is a private partnership company consisting of the following partners:—

(1) Sreeman the Rajah Yarlagadda Sivarama Prasad Bahadur, Rajah of Chellapalli.

(2) Sri E. Jagannadha Rao.

The Government have no information as to the capital and other particulars of the Syndicate.

19th September 1947]

"(*f*) The syndicate is reported to have worked the Nilambur Rajah's forest in 1944 and 1945.

"(*g*) The answer is in the negative.

"(*h*) The Government sanctioned the construction of the Tenkara–Attapady and Attappady Silent Valley road before the lease was granted. The road was constructed departmentally.

"(*i*) The income to the Government since the lease was granted up to 31st March 1947 was Rs. 4,482–3–0 for 12,785 cubic feet of timber collected during the period."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know wherefrom the proposal to lease to the Hope Syndicate emanated; is it from the Government or from the Chief Conservator of Forests?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"I do not exactly understand the question. I presume he wants information as to whom the application for lease was sent."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"I wish to know whether the application for lease was sent directly to Government or to the Chief Conservator."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"The application was made to Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"When the application was received, did the Government forward it to the Chief Conservator or to the concerned authorities for report?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"Yes, Sir; it was sent to the Chief Conservator for report."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"What was his recom- 11-30 a.m.
mendation?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"My recollection is that he had no objection to the grant of the lease."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Did he suggest that tenders should be called for before any particular syndicate was granted the lease?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"Before the receipt of this application, the Chief Conservator suggested that tenders should be called for or some other method of working these forests should be adopted."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"If he had made such a suggestion, may I take it that the Chief Conservator went back on his original recommendation and suggested this syndicate?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"The Chief Conservator suggested tender or any other proper method of exploitation of these forests, which were not till then exploited."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Did the Government call for tenders on their own initiative?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"No, Sir."

[19th September 1947

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" When an application for leasing out a forest of such a nature is received, is it not the duty of the Government to call for tenders? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" This question has already been covered in the previous question, question No. 67, answered on 11th March 1947. The Government have given their reasons there why they have given the lease."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the rates for timber are mentioned anywhere in the lease? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" What are those rates, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The rates are mentioned in the schedule to the contract. I may not be quite correct in pronouncing the Latin names of them. I hope the hon. Member will be satisfied with their local names."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Are you going to give the whole list? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" There are only four varieties, Sir. They are—

	RS. A. P.	
Rose wood	1 0 0	per cubic foot converted log measured at stem.
Vengai .. .. / Venteak .. .. / Pillamarudu	0 8 0	do.
Churuli .. .. / Pali .. .. / Poon .. .. / Irumbagam .. .. / Red Cedar .. .. / White Cedar	0 6 0	do.
Pilavu .. .. / Vayal .. .. / Chadachi	0 4 6	do.
Chukkamullam .. / Malaveppa .. .. / Cholavenga .. .. / Naval and two more species.	0 3 0	do. "

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether these rates compared favourably with the rates in the adjacent forests before they were accepted? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Government are not aware of the rates in the adjacent forests. I will get the information."

19th September 1947]

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" At the time when the agreement was entered into, did the Government satisfy themselves that the rates offered were reasonable comparatively? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The Chief Conservator of Forests recommended that the rates offered were fair."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" The Hon. Minister told us that it was not possible to say what the proportionate revenue would be as it would depend upon the amount of timber extracted. May I know who keeps watch to see whether the timber extracted is properly accounted for? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The officers of the Forest department mark the timber to be collected, and after converting them into logs, they measure them and then they are removed."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In answer to clause (*e*) the Hon. Minister said that he did not know anything about the syndicate, or its capital, or whether it was a registered company. May I ask, Sir, whether the Government are satisfied that the company could satisfy all the conditions of the lease? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I said that the company is a private registered company. The company has deposited Rs. 10,000 as security, and so the Government must have been satisfied with its solvency."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is there anything in the lease to enable the Government to cancel the lease if at any time it is found that the Government are incurring a loss? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I cannot answer that question now, Sir."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, the expenses that the Government had to meet? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Government had not met any particular expenses, as the officers working there are all permanent officers of the Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is there not a clause in all agreements by which Government . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Hon. Minister says he does not know. It is no use pursuing the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I request the Government to examine it, Sir? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Yes."